

Taunst
Book IV

Darling Downs and Granite Belt



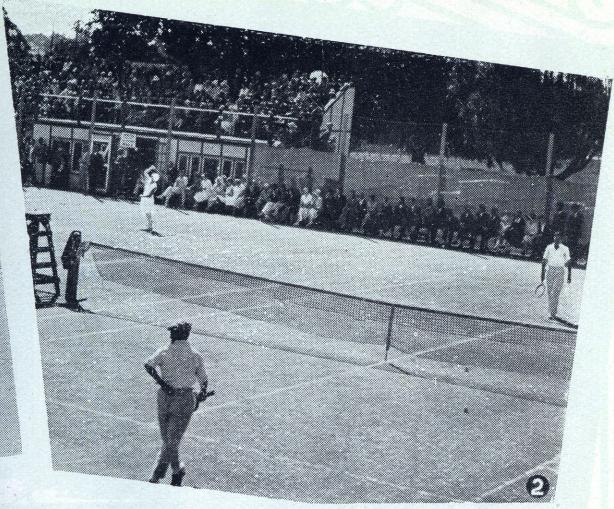
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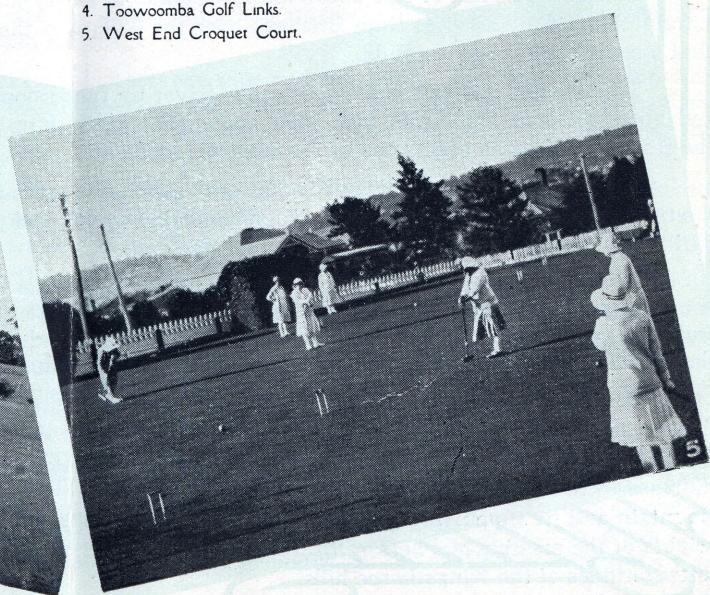
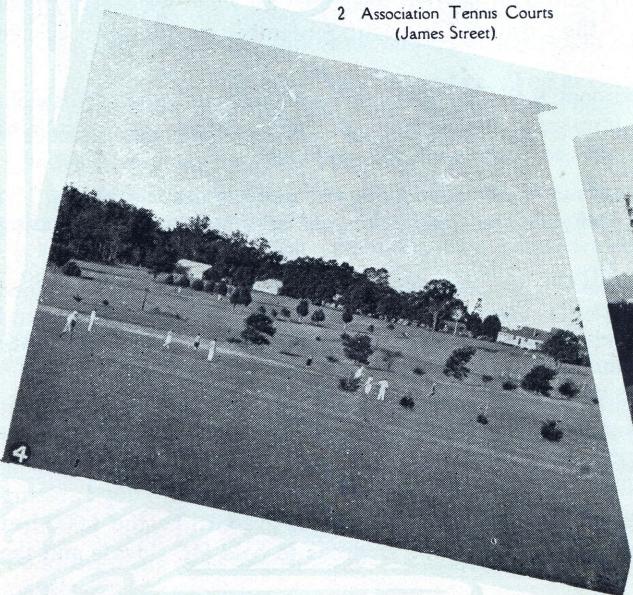
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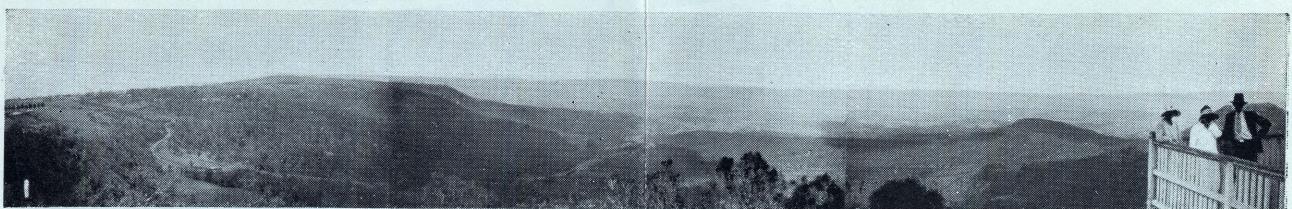


TOOWOOMBA

1. Toowoomba Baths
2. Association Tennis Courts
(James Street).

- 3 Toowoomba Bowling Club's Green.
4. Toowoomba Golf Links.
5. West End Croquet Court.





1. Panorama of Main Range, from Picnic Point, Toowoomba.

2. Central City Area, Toowoomba.

3. Toowoomba Hospital.

SHINING RANGE PANORAMAS

Absorbing Mountain Train Ascent

WHEN its springtime in the mountains is a fine time to wander over the Range and across the richly fertile and far-extending plateau of the Darling Downs and to the higher lands of the Granite Belt.

The purling stream, and margin green, with flowers bedecked, a vernal scene, of olden poesy may be more apparent later in the year in this land of summer rains. But in all seasons the pure, mountain air is cool and energising ; the young, the tender, green of changing leafy tree and shrub distinctly, freshly different from the sober evergreen of the sub-tropics ; and there is the deep, the living emerald of the widespread wheatfields in this glowing granary, a garden of the cereals where the wheat grows green on five thousand acre farms.

Life at thousands of feet above sea-level tends to gaiety and light-hearted freedom. So when we cheerily take a train of the daily services from Brisbane over the Range to the Downs on a bright September morning, we believe that a charming change impends.

The railroad is over the noble Brisbane River by Indooroopilly Bridge, through the industrial centre of Ipswich, and numerous country towns with their supporting fertile farmlands and dairying pastures. From the foothills of the Range at Helidon begins one of the most diverting of ascents on Australian railway lines.

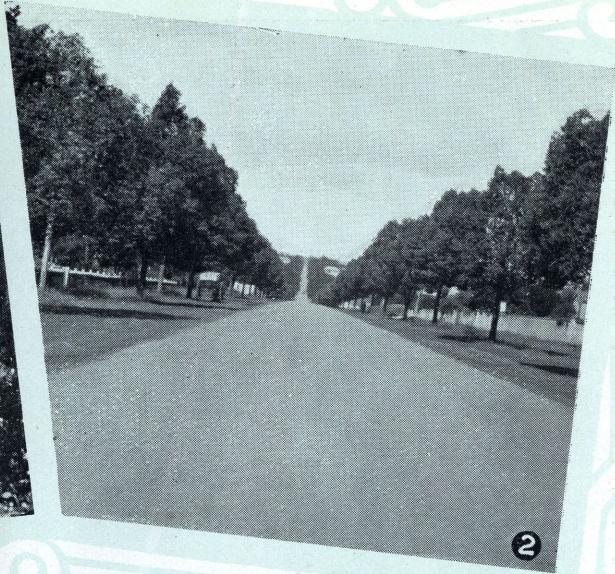
The rugged country required for an easy grade a circuitous route around the mountain spurs and slopes. So the train runs by forest-clad gorges and highland rills, through rocky cuttings, and in and out of tunnels, daylight chasing dark, and daylight ever winning.

Between Ballard and Rangeview, and near the top of the Range, the experienced traveller has his eyes trained for the best of this varied mountain climb and scenic feast. The far sweeps of mountain peaks, the lower ranges and foothills, grim precipitous cliffs, and enticing grassy slopes and valleys, on a fine day are bathed in golden sunlight ; their shining glory once seen is delight to the vision and a recurring tonic to the mind.

One must return from Toowoomba to the Range heights to have it deeply embossed on memory's shield that the city and suburbs are perched on a beautiful balcony of the Range, this thrilling threshold of the Downs and far-flung Western plains. Many ridges, knolls, and points rising to 2,500 feet give splendid panoramas over the grandly imposing staircase to the Downs. But none exceeds in magnificence that from Picnic Point directly over the striking Tabletop Mountain and its supporting sentinel mountains, and extending for a hundred miles north to south to the 4,000-feet heights of the massive McPherson Range, thence westward over Toowoomba and environs to bold Mt. Gowrie and the softer outlines of the Kingsthorpe hills.



1. Botanic Gardens, Toowoomba.



2. James Street, looking East, Toowoomba.

ON MOUNTAINS' BROW

The City Splendid—Bowered in Foliage

TOOWOOMBA'S beginnings trace to explorer Allan Cunningham and the following squatter pioneers. Drayton, four miles south, was the earliest camping forerunner of the city.

Viewed from the encircling heights, Toowoomba appears a garden city embowered in foliage. Only the central business quarter of this city of 30,000 people has not the glossy verdant mantle. This green leafy dress of deciduous shelter trees continues through summer to late autumn and adds its refreshing influence to the exhilarating mountain air.

The drooping willow is everywhere. Tall camphor laurels and spreading plane trees nod their foliated heads together and line the streets for miles.

Toowoomba for generations was the selected home for retiring Downs and Western graziers. Many mansions and other fine residences of modern designs decorate the gentle suburban ridges. In the beautiful gardens flourish roses, dahlias, stocks, and other flowers of temperate regions.

Suburban transport is by motor bus. The principal streets are wide and well-kept. The Town Hall (with School of Arts) is an imposing structure. Other public buildings—the Post Office and Supreme Court—are of handsome, substantial appearance. For many years Toowoomba has been noted for its fine secondary schools. There is an ample water supply, with electric and gas lighting.

The Botanic Gardens and Queen's Park cover seventy-five acres, bright with flowers and rich in arboreal walks and shady retreats under fragrant pine trees. In the Gardens conservatory we observed a massed display of cinerarias and schizanthus, tier upon tier, and making a memorable fine floral effect. The deep and velvety colours of the brilliant cinerarias had a beautiful contrasting foil in the paler but scarcely less pretty schizanthus.

Newtown Park and Webb Park are other people's pleasures. In Webb Park, with its striking outlooks over the Range, is a memorial to George Essex Evans. The English-born poet fell in love with the Range, the Downs, and the queenly city mantling the mountainous dress circle of these commanding heights of Australia's Great Dividing Range. Yes, . . . the vision of a city, wide and splendid, crowning the Range's wall . . . has been fulfilled and with great promise of a grander future.

The bastions of that massive wall resemble ocean headlands so strongly that it is easy to imagine something more than a sea of airy lightness caressing their boldly jutting promontories. At times the mists of early morning cluster over Tabletop and companion peaks in white, cloud-like masses which make a pretty spectacle as the wind stirs through the flowing fleecy tide. And when sunlight plays in golden streams far over the grandly moving scene and the mists have melted away, the spiritual in enraptured beholders is strengthened and exalted and Inspiration walks abroad.



In Ravensbourne National Park.

THE DOWNS FOR SPORT AND HEALTH

Beauties of Ravensbourne Park

THE Darling Downs and Toowoomba have a name for strength and speed in sport—when Australia could not do it, the Downs Rugby League players have defeated visiting English football teams. The invigorating mountain air leaves no enervation in its wake, but means stronger lungs, an increase of haemoglobin, or red corpuscles, in the blood, and an access of swiftness and staying power in action.

Health and sport are closely related ideas on these mountain plateaux. Holidays give abundant returns in both pleasure and well-being. Toowoomba has two golf courses, one pleasantly situated on the Range, two bowling clubs, and many tennis courts. There are numerous social and cultural clubs and organisations.

Trips of varied mountain charm can be made by regular services on branch railways north to Haden, Cooyar, and Crow's Nest, and west through vast wheatfields, some farms reaching 7,000 acres, to Pittsworth and Milmerran and Cecil Plains.

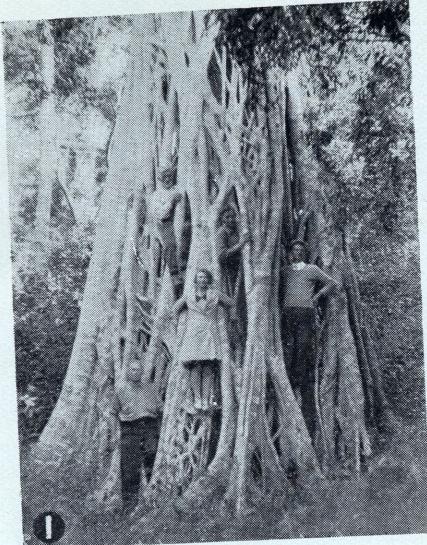
Attractive drives around Toowoomba are over red or dark chocolate roads, contrasting prettily with the green of pastures, gardens, and orchards. James, Campbell, and Hume streets are the most regular of Toowoomba's striking arboreal avenues.

New angles on the Range's scenic charms and Toowoomba's foliaged city spread are provided by Mount Lofty, Stony Pinch, and along the Range to the Quarry. Evidently an old volcano and of great geologic interest, the Quarry's formations are horizontal, slightly curved, and becoming perpendicular on the outside.

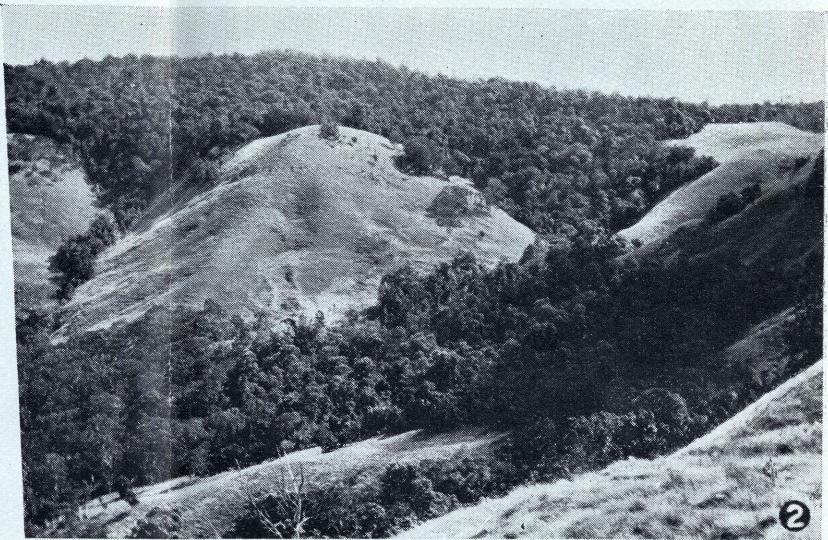
Fifteen hundred acres of forest-clad Range slopes are reserved near Toowoomba. One of the best is Ravensbourne National Park, 28 miles distant, with the turn down the Range at Hampton at 2,311 ft. The route provides beautiful views over the Range front, and a forest drive along a good road lined with thickly placed tall trees. The red ribbon of road rises over hills dark in soil or green in crop, and finally up hill and down dale amid orange and lemon groves to the Park at 2,665 ft.

Woollybutt, bloodwood, stringybark, blackbutt, and other big trees form an imposing forest vestibule in the Park. In the gullies and creek courses are groves of lovely palms and tree ferns, with the large trees decorated with staghorns, elkhorns, and crow's nests. Sweetly melodious and brilliantly plumaged bird-life assist in making the cool sub-tropical solitudes of this Park worth a full day's trip.

The view from the Park Kiosk is considered more extensive than at Toowoomba: the panorama unrolls at Crow's Nest, passing to Conondale Range, thence to Mount Coot-tha, Brisbane, over Tamborine Plateau to McPherson Range, and does not close its magnificent scroll until Cunningham's Gap and attendant peaks on the Great Dividing Range swing into vision and complete the scenic rapture.



1. Parasite Fig Tree, Russell Park, Bunya Mountains.



2. On Bunya Mountains.

THE PERFECT CLIMATE

Nearest Artesian Health-giving Waters

DALBY in these hurried days is indexed for most people as the Northern Downs centre whose dry air and scale of fluctuations in temperature, with absence of sudden changes, are so beneficial to health that many go there to prolong their days. Dalby has one of the lowest death rates in Australia. It combines the coolness of the Downs mountain climate with the dryness of the Western plains.

Only 153 miles by rail from Brisbane, a second salubrious entry about this noted natural sanatorium is that it possesses the most easterly water in Australia from the wonderful underground supplies of the artesian basin. Dalby Town Council has erected comfortable bath-houses where the bore water can be used to fullest advantage. They are electrically lighted and have plunge and shower baths. The bore is sunk to 2,500 ft.

The water comes up at the average temperature of 101 degrees. Its radio-activity is of the highest. The water is bottled and is very acceptable to the palate. Personal testimony is readily available to its value in removing rheumatic and digestive troubles, and debility due to overwork and nervous strain.

Myall Creek, a considerable stream, runs through Dalby to join the Condamine River. Eighteen miles south is Lake Broadwater, now a public reserve, a thousand acres in extent, and gradually increasing to 10 ft. in depth. It is very safe for bathing and all aquatic sports, and perfection for waterside picnics.

Thirty miles north of Dalby towers the Great Dividing Range, now comfortably accessible by the efforts of the Bunya Mountains Club and local authorities.

With a population round 3,000, Dalby is the business headquarters of the Northern Downs. Only a couple of hours by rail from Toowoomba, over attractive downs and plains of great fertility, Dalby is the junction for railway lines to Bell, Jandowae, and Tara-Meandarra.

At the edge of the great Western plains, Dalby, for many years, was regarded as permanently pastoral. But the statue to Joshua Thomas Bell reminds us that he contended for closer settlement of Jimbour station and other excellent agricultural lands, and so revived and strengthened Dalby's fortunes.

Much dairying and wheat and fodder growing have followed. Still Dalby remains among the largest of Queensland's sheep and cattle growing areas. And we do not go far from the town before it is seen that before us are the long roads to the Western plains, where the merinos and beef cattle cover the landscape, and the emu, the wallaroo, and plain turkey are at home—

“ And the galahs fly
With pink breasts high,
A rosy cloud in a cloudless sky.”



1. Bunya Pine, Bunya Mountains.



2. Typical Vegetation, Bunya Mountains.

WHERE THE BUNYA IS NATIVE

Mowbullan's Encompassing Scenic Magnificence

“**B**UNYIP! Bunyip! Tell us what a Bunyip is,” of an Australian musical play for young people had to do with a sylvan monster, feared by the aborigines, whose nature was not understood. Let us learn that the Bunya of the forest is a marvellous, inspiring tree, rising over 150 ft., whose pinenuts were beloved of the blacks.

The Bunya is more allied to an American pine than to its nearest Australian relative, the hoop pine. It is cultivated for its symmetrical shape and remarkable whorled (or turned) branches and spirally arranged leaves. Its huge nut-bearing cones are on the higher branches, are 12 in. long and 9 in. in diameter, contain fifty nuts, and weigh to 10 lb. The pale-coloured timber has uses similar to the hoop pine.

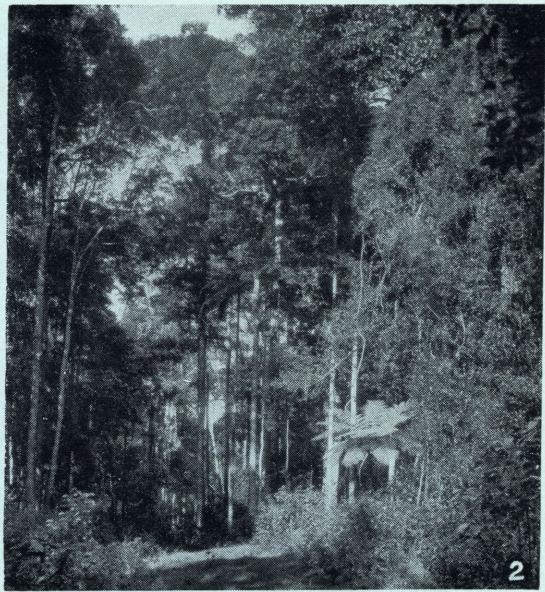
The beautiful and bountiful bunya gave its name to the splendid sub-tropical section of the Dividing Range near Dalby. A winding ascent of 2,000 ft. includes one sinuous turn that is a model “S.” A good safe road along the steep side of an impressive gorge is followed by a pleasant drive through a thick forest before we emerge on a grassy ridge at Munro’s Camp. The striking golden faces of the grassy mountain slopes throw into highly attractive contrast the encompassing forest green.

Across a deep gorge and spreading over a mountain ridge is a picturesque sub-tropical forest of varying shades of verdancy, with the bunya and hoop pine tops showing like spires above a green-roofed city. Russell Park, the 1,200 acres of public reserve named after its donor, continues to Mount Mowbullan Guesthouse. This fine mountain home is reached by a brief, entrancing drive through the jungle, sometimes passing under tree ferns and by fig-tree and stinging-tree giants, hoop and bunya pines, and an occasional cedar. Mowbullan House and grounds, at the top of the old pioneering track, is environed by thick jungle, and has captivating views.

Mowbullan heights in their treeless grassy rise above the forest borders resemble rounded towers of mountain castles. Big Mowbullan’s mound-like top at 3,611 ft. is an easy walk. Here are superbly varied panoramas and glorious sunrises and sunsets. West is spread the splendid forest spectacle of the National Park, of 22,500 acres, reserved to save the bunya and curious bottle-tree from passing hence. Northward we see over the Kingaroy highlands and fruitful South Burnett to the Coast Range. Dalby is southward espied amid the sweeps of brown and golden plains that in the sunlight gleam a hundred miles to the far horizon. The panoramas are almost as all-embracing as the sailor’s crow’s-nest, where can be observed the swirling seas that meet the skyline all the compass round.



1. From the Guest House, Bunya Mountains.



2. A Forest Track, Bunya Mountains.

IN BUNYA SOLITUDES

Jungle Charms of the Green Mountains

ON every side the bunyas thrust their decorative tops to the cerulean. These trees are 20 ft. in girth and limbless for 50 ft. The forest roof greens are glorified by the golden white of giant king orchids and red of cedar bloom, with violets and snowdrops brightening the forest floor. The older bunya trees still bear the climbing cuts made by aborigines long ago when they trooped a hundred miles and over from the coast and inland every three years to the bunya feast.

How many centuries the dusky tribes came singing through the forests and roaming gaily on the mountains we can only hazard. But the Bunya Mountains are most ancient and the black is one of mankind's original stocks. So the vital bond that was broken by the white and his timber hunger was very old.

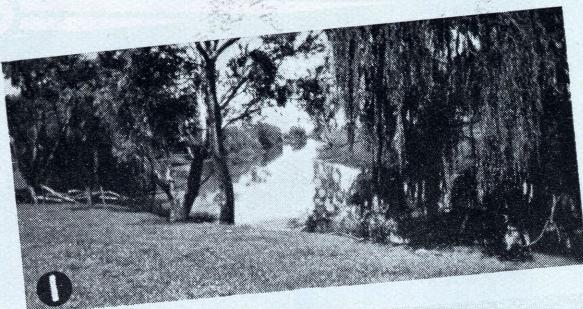
The black man comes no more, and in the white's old memories of bunya in its prime we hear a hint of the dread of the coronach. He is gone on the mountain. He is lost to the forest.

Musing alone in the jungle and far beneath the towering pines whose banners and standards wave above this shining army of the greenwood, one comes under the spell of these remarkable Green Mountains, where the open forests of the west meet the denser outposts of the tropical coast. Even at the brightest noonday the sunbeams filter through the crowding forest tops in faint patches only, or shaftings as slender as a willow wand.

Lovely tree ferns and graceful palms tremble and sway above the streams and beautify the falls, some leaping 300 ft., and the antlered epiphytes, the staghorns and elkhorns, with the crow's nest ferns, in hundreds make fairy rings around the trees. Over the Festoon Falls the water gently cascades, and the draping vines and creepers hang jealously near and seemingly anxious to stop the escape of a single sound that would disturb the arboreal peace and quiet.

On the heights at times the winds come deeply sighing up the forest slopes like the swishing of mighty waters against precipitous cliffs. But deep in the forest solitude and calm there seems in the stillness a total absence of life; in fancy we hear the whisperings of the shades of departed dusky lovers of the bunyas.

Yet clap the hands sharply! The whirring of wings of a flock of pretty pigeons or a covey of bright-hued parrots is heard as they fly through the trees a hundred feet above. And far overhead a wandering eagle hovers in effortless flight above the sea of green and Mowbullan's towers sublime that seem above the grasp of time. . . .



1. On Condamine River, near Warwick.

2. Silverwood Dam.

3. Harvesting Wheat, Darling Downs.

THE DOWNS AS LIFE PROVIDER

Glowing Green of Wheaten Glory

THOUGH the Darling Downs based their progress on pastoral and then agricultural interests, Toowoomba has large engineering, brewing, flourmaking, and sawmilling industries. The Darling Downs Co-operative Dairy Co. has an extensive factory in Toowoomba, with the maximum of cleanliness and efficiency. Numerous silver trophies are shining testimony to the very high quality of Downs butter and cheese. The twelve butter factories give the Downs third place in Queensland's production. Warwick and district have large flourmilling, timber, butter, and cheese industries. With over threescore factories making nearly all Queensland's cheese, the claim that sixty per cent. of Australia's export of cheese is produced on the Downs is easily accepted.

Cattle number half a million, and sheep, mainly merino, three millions. The dairying herds are chiefly Illawarra Shorthorns, with Jerseys, Ayrshires, and Friesians.

The average rainfall is 30 in. Water in abundance can be obtained all over the Downs by shallow boring. The intensely rich, deep soil, of volcanic origin, makes artificial fertilisers unknown. So we have the bases of the great grain-bearing garden that is the Downs. It produces nearly all Queensland's wheat and barley, two-thirds of the oats, a third of the hay, and a third of the maize. Queensland is the largest Australian grower of maize.

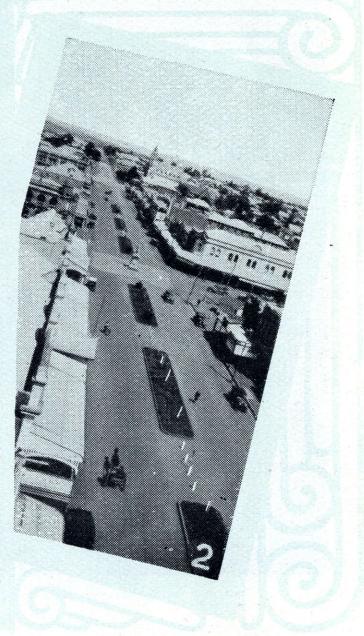
When the springtime comes again is the best time for seeing the Downs in all its green and golden glory, its renewing promise of wealth and plenty displayed in thriving wheatfields over a hundred miles of plain and downlands. The Wheat, the Rice, the Corn ! The contest for which is the greatest sustainer and strongest nourisher of the nations lies between the Wheat of the West and the Rice of the East.

When we travel south by Clifton and Allora, by Warwick and Killarney, or west from Toowoomba by Oakey, Jondaryan, and Pittsworth, the thousands of acres of pale to shining green grow to tens of thousands and then into hundreds of thousands of acres of wheaten glory. The winter bareness and brownness have become unending carpets of luminous verdancy, soon in mellowing maturity to turn to the sere and the yellow. With such masses constantly before our eyes, the wheat no longer is a study in shades of gold and green, an alluring spectacle. It becomes intensely magnified, and reveals its message and inner meaning of a Living Force.

Wheat ! Wheat ! Everywhere wheat, and not a grain to eat ; yet the promise of the golden harvest is there as this greatest revivifying power of the world irresistibly moves to its destined goal to give fresh strength and energy to the people.



1. Field of Wheat, Allora, Darling Downs.



2. Palmerin Street, Warwick.

BEAUTIFUL CONDAMINE COUNTRY

Healthy Warwick's Civic Attractions

IN Bulwer Lytton's view Warwick was the Last of the Barons of feudal England. Queensland Warwick's place names declare that it was the first of the Downs to be explored and industrially pioneered. Allan Cunningham, the overlanding discoverer, and Patrick Leslie, first pastoral settler, seem to be part of the Southern Dwns ; their names are commemorated in several ways.

Warwick still smiles when it is recalled that a pioneer claimed all the rich lands of the Condamine and its tributaries to the mountains as his domain. If he had succeeded, this pastoral Warwick would have stopped the now progressive city of 8,000 people from advancing beyond the hamlet stage.

As rivers and altitudes go, the Condamine is a mountain stream as it flows through Warwick at nearly 1,500 ft. above sea level. The Condamine's tribute is to the Darling-Murray. As a source of Australia's longest river the Condamine is symbolical of the industrial tributes of Queensland to the general stream of Australian trade and commerce.

On the main Sydney-Wallangarra-Brisbane railway, Warwick is centrally situated. It is within twenty-one hours by daily services from Sydney, and seven from Brisbane. Branch lines to Maryvale and Killarney, and the South-Western line to Inglewood, Texas, and Dirranbandi, connect with Warwick Junction.

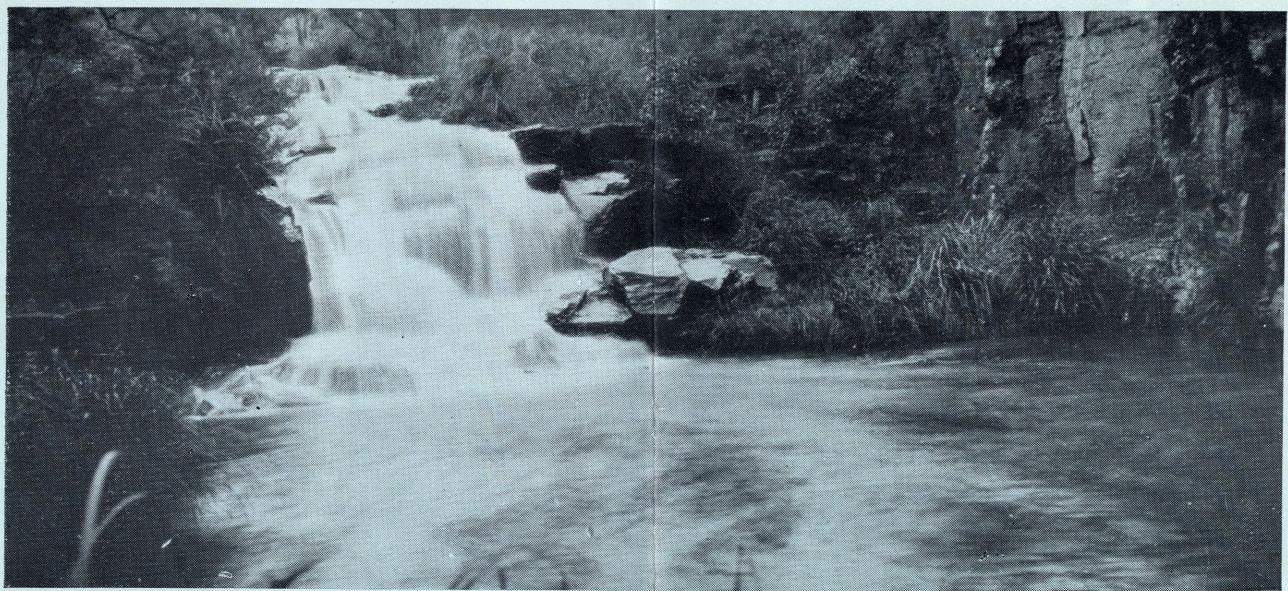
Warwick is built on ground rising from the Condamine and has excellent natural drainage. There are no extremes of heat or cold and an absence of fogs in this healthy capital of the Southern Downs. The invigorating, lighter atmosphere of the mountains assures physical well-being. Gentle heights give pretty views over the city and wheat-growing valleys. Warwick takes second place to none in its seven fine secondary schools, which attract scholars from far and wide in Queensland.

Willows are numerous along the Condamine. There is abundance of trees and foliage in Warwick. With the bountiful water supply, private gardens are noted for their ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers. Palmerin street, the wide main thoroughfare, has been made a garden street by the laying of a number of central lawns planted with pines and palms.

Along Leslie Park, in North Palmerin street, is a fine tree-lined walk or boulevard. The bowling green is centrally situated in Leslie Park.

Warwick is amply served with breathing spaces within the city area—Leslie, Cunningham, and Queen's Parks. On the road to Silverwood is Morgan Park, comprising 1,800 acres of open forest and clearings that simply call a welcome for picnics and large holidaying crowds.

Bowling, golf, and tennis—Warwick's well-appointed sports grounds ensure the maximum of pleasure with health restoration. The golf clubhouse at 1,800 ft. gives glowing pictures over the city's environs, and lovely Freestone Valley in its green wheaten costume—the views alone justify the links.



The Cascades, Killarney.

BY MAIN RANGE AND FOREST

Loveliness and Liquid Plenty at Silverwood

OF Warwick viewpoints, the hill above the Reservoir and Hospital Ridge provide very attractive scenes over the city to the mountains. On the ridge is a reserve of 20 acres of the original bush. Just beyond Canning Downs homestead, over a heaving sea of green wheat, is a memorable panorama to Mount Sturt and companion peaks along the Range encircled by a blue haze.

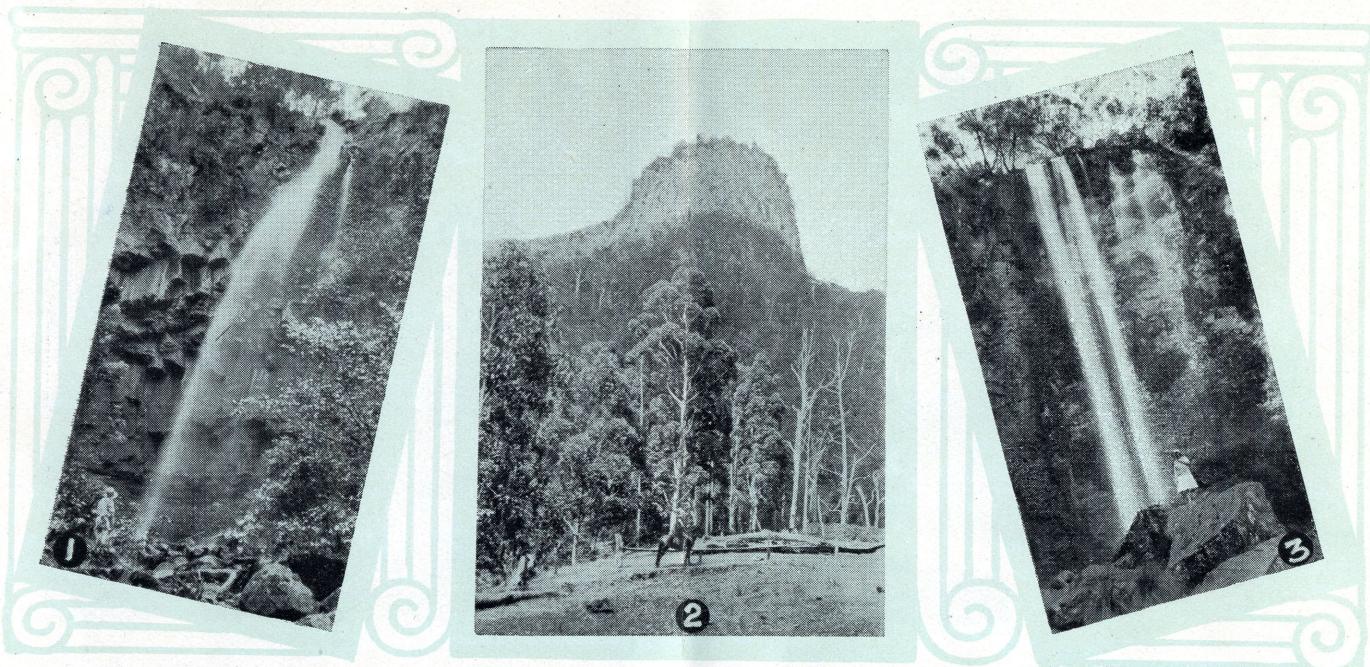
While dairying, wheat, maize, and hay bulk largely in Southern Downs production, stock-raising is still a big factor. Canning Downs and Lyndhurst are studs famed beyond Queensland for thoroughbred horses and beef cattle. Talgai and other estates are well worth visiting.

An hour or two spent at the big Connolly Dam at Silverwood gives a very interesting demonstration of the reasons for Warwick's now splendid supply of the best water. This natural catchment area in the mountains 10 miles south eliminates pumping and gives an economical water service by gravitation. The pleasant lake-like expanse is 500 ft. across at the widest part, and 60 ft. deep near the dam water tower and spillway. It is 1½ miles in length. When we visited the dam there was enough water for two years' supply without rain; in ordinary circumstances there is sufficient water to supply other Darling Downs centres, including Toowoomba.

Trips by the Freestone Valley and Campbell's Plains, or by Allora, and the charming Goomburra Valley take the visitor through regions of farming plenty and beauty. Beyond Maryvale is Cunningham's Gap, named after the explorer who found this way over the Range from Brisbane. The Gap is 3,000 ft. above sea level. Mounts Cordeaux and Mitchell guard the pass from heights of 4,000 ft. The road through Cunningham's Gap passes for 1½ miles through sub-tropical jungle. A basalt column commemorates the first passage of the Range. At different high points there are magnificent views eastward.

Both on the Range, near Goomburra, and at Cunningham's Gap, the native jungle is beautiful in its interlaced network of palms, ferns, vines, and flowering creepers that fill any spaces left by the big trees and their curious parasitic growths and adornments of epiphytic ferns and orchids. Bright-costumed parrots and pigeons, the tuneful bellbirds, the whipbird and its shrill concluding note, the remarkable scrub turkey and its natural incubators, beautiful parrots and pigeons, and other sub-tropical birds add interest, colour, and song to their primeval environments.

Sixteen miles south from Warwick is striking evidence that we are on the edge of the Granite Belt. Enormous masses of granite in blocks form caves, and the picturesque piles are attractive in their weird assembly. The flannel flower, violets, and other wildlings of Nature pay their tribute of transient beauty to the scene.



1. Lower Brown's Falls, Killarney.

2. Paddy's Knob, Killarney.

3. Queen Mary's Falls, Killarney.

CIRCLING THE MOUNTAIN VALES

Killarney's Fells and Condamine's Falls

MANY lava flows occurred before the rich volcanic soil of the Downs could be. Mount Sturt, one of the later volcanoes, and its neighbouring mountains and valleys are of great interest to geologists. For scenic interest and charm the Killarney railway line, with its pine and cedar timber and coal trade, has few peers. The train route is by Swan Creek, Yangan, and Emu Vale to mountain-crested Killarney. The fascination of Killarney is in its nestling at the feet of the medley of spurs and peaks of the Great Dividing Range, which at this meeting of the mountains throws the gigantic McPherson Range eastward.

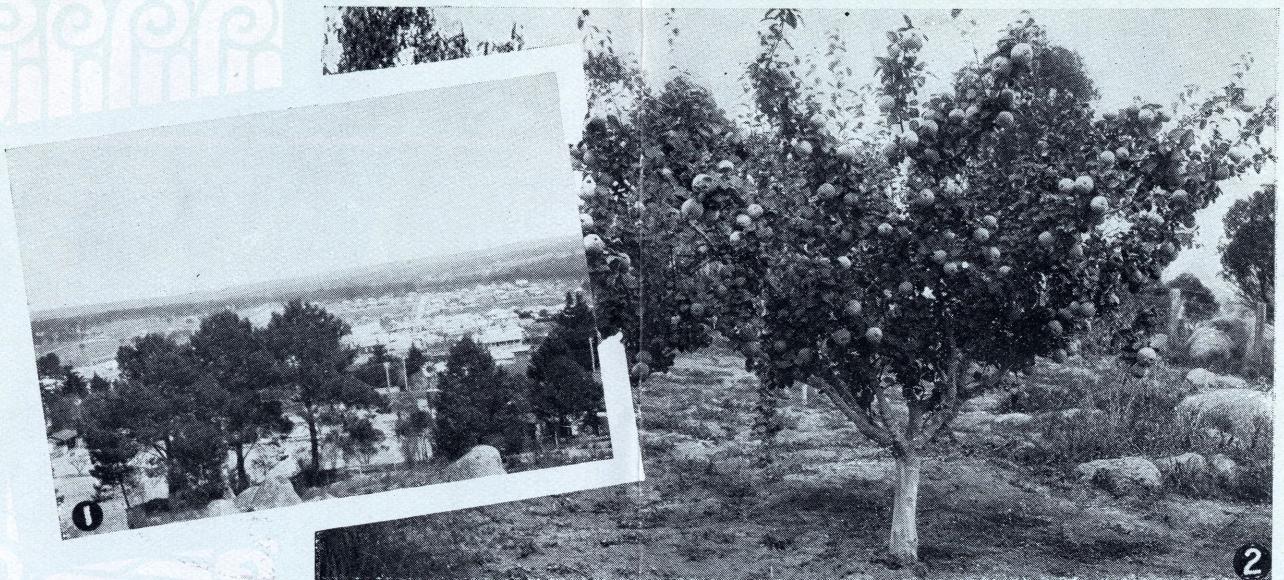
The two branches of the Upper Condamine, and Spring, Emu Vale, and Swan Creeks all meander from folds or openings in the semi-circling mountains. And set on highlands at the entrances to these mountain vales are the numerous villages along the crescent-tracked railway ; and the trains wander amiably around the charmed half-circle an extra dozen miles and whistle " How d'you do " to them all, from high Mount Sturt to Yangan, Emu Vale to Danderoo. To the left are the sober browns and greys of the mountains and sombre green of the gorges ; to the right the brighter life of many broad miles of smiling uplands and gentle downs in their jade to emerald garments of wheaten splendour.

In the shining springtime trains are halted at Emu Vale to allow of travellers fully admiring the best of these glorious panoramas. In the summer, when the wheat has ripened to golden brown, the scenes still have their delights in contrast with the green of the growing maize and steadier luminance of the lucerne patches. And we recall that the winter for the sowing, the springtime for the growing, and summer for the garnering is the seasonal progression of the wheat.

From Killarney there are absorbing trips up Spring Creek and Condamine branches to Brown, Queen Mary, and other fine falls, set in the pretty arboreal luxuriance of light rain forest. Mount Leslie and Wilson's Peak are the best lookout for views over the ranges and to peaks towering over 4,000 ft.

The Condamine Gorge is a memorable combination of mountain scenery, and the palms, ferns, and abounding life of sub-tropical forest, where gaily coloured birds wing their ways and the Condamine's first fountains flow. Here and elsewhere round these enchanting circling hills and valleys to Emu Vale and Swan Creek are inviting regions indeed :

" I know a vale where I would go one day
When flowers bloom and all the world once more
Is glad with summer. Deep in shade it lies,
A mighty cleft between the bosoming hills,
A cool dim gateway to the mountain's heart."



1. Stanthorpe, from Soldiers' Memorial Hill.

2. Quince Tree, Stanthorpe.

WONDERFUL GRANITE BELT CONTRASTS

High Health and Sporting Holidays at 3,000 feet.

GRANITE and grapes in a mountain stronghold, with ramparts of higher mountains; flowers and fruit and massive monuments to the time when the fiercely molten deeps of the earth, the furibund magma, were churning openly and madly here. This is Stanthorpe of the Granite Belt.

Go to the Sentimental Rocks, within a mile of Stanthorpe. We see enough granite boulders to 40 ft. in height to make immense memorials to a whole necropolis for a hundred kings. And in the shadow of these enormous piles of slabs and rounded rocks is a large vineyard that makes one think of black grapes, grapes purple and golden, and red and amber wine. ". . . and out of the strong came sweetness," ran the ancient riddle. "And with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee," sang the Psalmist.

The paradoxical Granite Belt is 50 miles long and 20 wide. There are many piled and mammoth groups like the Sentimental Rocks, huge Castles, Battlements and Towers, Pyramids and Domes, whole mountain tops of bare granite and mountain spurs and ridges of tumbled boulders, and prone or upstanding columns.

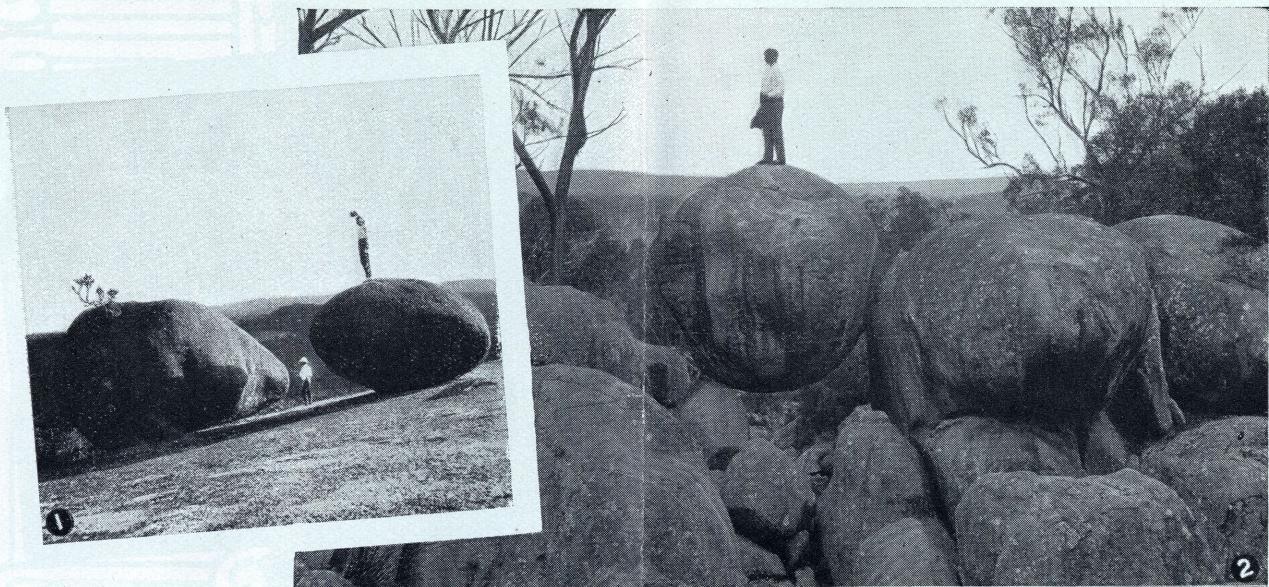
Go by any road to these giant cairns or curious groups of Statuary of the Elemental Forces, and we pass by orchards gay with pink and white blossoms, the ever-present gold of the wattle, and by banks and braes of wildflowers bright with fresh, unforced colours, the delicate, fugitive shades of the highlands that know no aid apart from sun, soil, wind, and rain.

It is the spacious garden of the Shalimar, of the Indian mountain paradise, over again. But more grandly expansive and varied is it in the wealth of blossoming fruit trees, blooming shrubs and creepers, and the tiny vivid flowerets of the granite wildwood.

Stanthorpe, at 2,650 ft., is the natural heart and hub of this mountain loveliness and interest. A brisk walk to Mounts Marlay or Banca give entrancing panoramas from over 3,000 ft.

Twenty years ago Governor Sir William MacGregor, who spent many years in equatorial coastal heat and humidity, described Stanthorpe's climate as "a valuable asset to the State." Mountain air is lighter and more rarefied, has much purifying and stimulating ozone, and assists metabolism, or the physical processes which replace the worn-out tissue. Stanthorpe's dryness allows the sun's rays to pass through the atmosphere with the least absorption, thus permitting the fullest sunlight and maximum benefit to health.

Stanthorpe is an attractive holidaying rendezvous. Golf, bowls, tennis—all the games have first-class facilities here. And with all the sporting opportunities, coolness, tree life, and fruits of the temperate climates, Stanthorpe is unique in magnetic power as Australia's Fortress Garden of the Granite Mountains.



1. The Two Brothers.

2. Thunderbolt's Cave.

BOULDER RIDGES AND ORCHARDS

Bowers and Banks of Wildflowers

To seek the granite giants and the orchards in peach and pear bloom at the dawn of apple blossom time was our intention one September morning. But an opossum farm beguiled the golden wattle way to Amien's fruit-growing area :

"Our rocks are rough, but smiling there,
The acacia waves her golden hair."

The farm was 2 acres of forest trees with a special opossum-proof fence ; the enterprise and fence were said to be without parallels in Australia. With thirty years' practical experience of his own, the proprietor's view was that a good living could be made in farming opossums by those who understood them.

There was enough wattle gold brightening the roadside to deck a metropolis, but we heard that a month or so earlier Stanthorpe forest highways were really at the top of their gilded glory. The pink peach bloom had advanced to the reddish tint of age, but still held the eye with its prettiness. The orchards had an occasional blaze of white blossoms of plum or pear, or the white and pink of an early apple ; in one garden a cherry grove was alive with bees and butterflies seeking the nectar of its large white blossoms.

At the back of one large orchard at Amiens is a remarkable ridge of granite. On this is a group of boulders whose comparative sizes and numbers have earned them the name of the Sow and Pigs. On this rounded granite top are straight lines cleft in the rock and pretty pools of water. A creek has its course between this ridge and the height of Ferguson's Lookout, and after rain there is a broad waterfall over steep rock faces into an inviting big pool.

Ferguson's Lookout, near this Waterway of the Wildflowers, gives a fine panoramic view. It is a varied valley whose charm is doubled by the profusion of dainty flowering shrubs and plants. The correia, its considerable flower a heavenly rose pink, is in banks of bloom. The fleeting yellow to red of the wild hop plant, the white and snow shades of the star flower, wild daphne, flannel flower, and clematis, blue and purple violets, purple-fringed lily and tiger lily with red and brown spots, white and pink coral plants, and the blue of the sarsaparilla trailer, are just a few of the two hundred varieties of fragile wildflowers that adorn the ridge slopes and valleys of the Granite Belt. Haresfoot and other ferns, and orchids of blue and white and green, are everywhere.

"And what a wilderness of flowers !
It seemed as though from all the bowers
And fairest fields of all the year
The mingled spoil were scattered here."



From Boonoo Boonoo Falls, Stanthorpe District.

AMONG THE GRANITE GIANTS

Battlemented Arrays and Bald-top Mountains

ALL roads from Stanthorpe lead to pink and white orchards and grey granite monsters. That to Glen Aplin and past Eukey to Ballandean just adds the green of more vegetable gardens than usual. Regrets are heard that the apple blossom month is the best time to come under the spell of orchard bloom. Yet from July to November there is always a blaze of fruit tree colour around the Granite Belt garden. And from November to March the trees are in full green leaf and loaded with richly tinted delicious fruit, golden and pink to red and purple in their ripening glory.

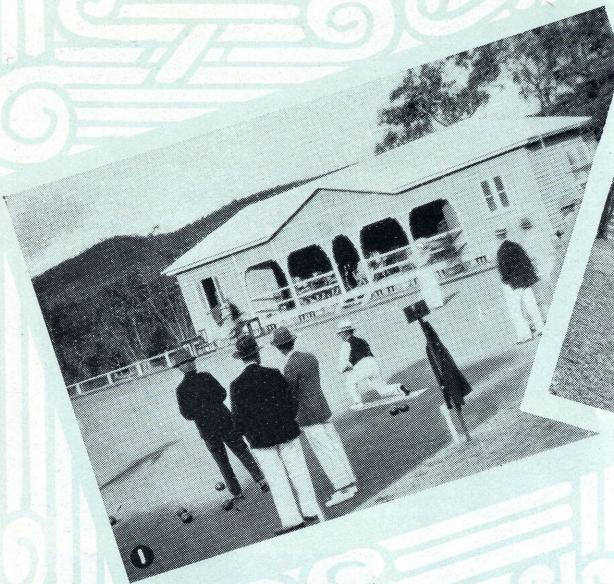
From Ballandean Hill the outlook over Ballandean and to the open grassed slopes of mountains on the Queensland border is a striking picture of sunlit pastoral lands aptly termed the Sundown Country. Wallangarra, Queensland's commodious railway station, reminds us that here trains are changed by interstate travellers from Sydney who decide to enter Queensland by the renowned scenic route of the Granite Belt—Darling Downs—Great Dividing Range. Comfortable train services are run every week-day between Brisbane and Sydney, *via* Wallangarra.

In the range facing Wallangarra north-east are the outstanding peaks Bald Rock and Mount Norman, reaching over 4,000 ft.

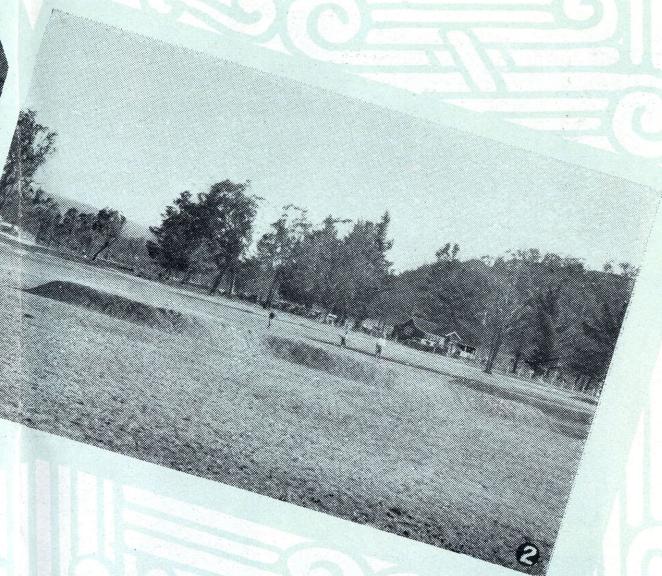
Travellers by train obtain an idea of the marvellous granite ridges and boulder-strewn slopes of this Kingdom of the Granite. In a stopover at Stanthorpe one is deeply impressed that here is a distinct scenic feature on a surprising scale of grandeur. The road to and past the Pyramids or Great Domes leads through a valley so dominated by gargantuan aggregations of granite rocks that the Valley of the Giants is the name fittingly bestowed on it. "Floaters" and Balancing Rocks are frequently seen among the numerous family groups or guardian piles of this Grand Highway of the Granite.

The ascent to the Great Domes is up open forest and granite clefts beautified by ferns and wildflowers. Then follows a climb along a granite rock face, past boulders and slabs. Now the scene impresses with the number of mountain spurs, with bald tops and ridges of piled rocks that abruptly emerge above the surrounding forest, and march and counter-march in rugged majesty and the beauty that derives from apparent order and unity.

From the summit the magnificent panorama includes the ranges at far Killarney and south to the Sundown Mountains. On the face of one rock at the top is interesting picture-writing done by aborigines in the long ago. This wonderful vision of the results of cataclysmic convulsions in geologic ages long past merits a national reservation of the Great Domes and their scenic surroundings.



1. Stanthorpe Bowling Green.



2. The Golf Links, Stanthorpe.

STANTHORPE'S VARIED ATTRACTIONS

Waterfalls, Mountain Tours, and Panoramas

THE industrial procession of Stanthorpe has been stock-raising, then tin-mining, gold and other metals, and precious stones, and now fruit-growing and sheep. Stanthorpe means Tin Town, and has a similar basic idea to the classic Cassiterides—Isles of Tin. In the tin-mining rushes Stanthorpe's population galloped to 14,000, and for a time the tin standard was in vogue—a billycan of tin for a pannikin of rum.

Visitors can find diversion in hunting for topazes and other gems in the creeks. Of many brief trips near Stanthorpe, Quartpot Creek Falls and Thunderbolt's Cave are within 2 miles. Thunderbolt was a bushranging leader sixty years ago. Several granite labyrinths and rocky ravines of Stanthorpe's fastnesses have their memories of Thunderbolt and his lightning rides for booty—or liberty. Donnelly's Castle is another large and notable rock formation, with a narrow entrance through precipitous walls.

The large Undercliffe Falls are only 18 miles from Stanthorpe, and near fine sub-tropical forest areas of the Dividing Range. Boonoo Boonoo Falls and neighbourhood also repay visiting.

For driving or riding, the roads round Stanthorpe are excellent. For walking and camping, the Granite Belt has many a pleasant way and track, delightful outlook and bivouac. The rarefied air and health and youth-renewing sunlight make the miles seem only furlongs, while sleep needs no seeking because Nature here provides her own soporific.

An interesting variation from rock-piled mountains is made by a tour through the vale of Pike's Creek, by Jibbenbar road to Glenlyon and return by Pikedale. From Warwick Hill, overlooking Glenlyon, Mingoola, and Pikedale, is a glorious prospect, the grazing dales and hills, clear and golden in the afternoon sun, make a vast glittering expanse to the border mountains.

The best of Stanthorpe's fruit land is found adjoining massive boulders. Nine-tenths of Queensland apples ripen in red and yellow beauty in the Granite Belt. And nearly all its pink and yellow peaches and pears and dusky plums, with over 2,000,000 lb. of purple and golden grapes, half of Queensland's total growing, come from this fertile granitic soil, where rocky monsters of the world's erupting prime mingle with delicate, fairy wildflowers, heirlooms from the earliest time, and health may be found by those who seek it :

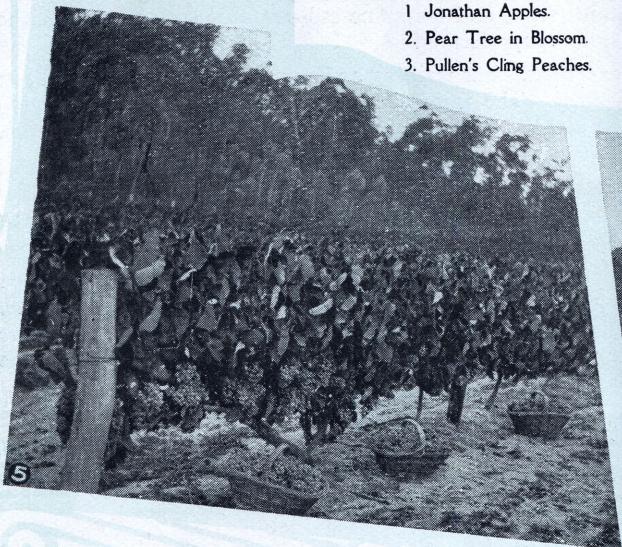
"The fairest fruits these highlands send
That temperate clime with rich earth blend,
With flowers that light the granite wild
In angel tints from Heaven smiled ;
And grandest gift of mountain air,
The Bloom of Health, is native there."



STANTHORPE

- 1 Jonathan Apples.
- 2 Pear Tree in Blossom.
- 3 Pullen's Cling Peaches.

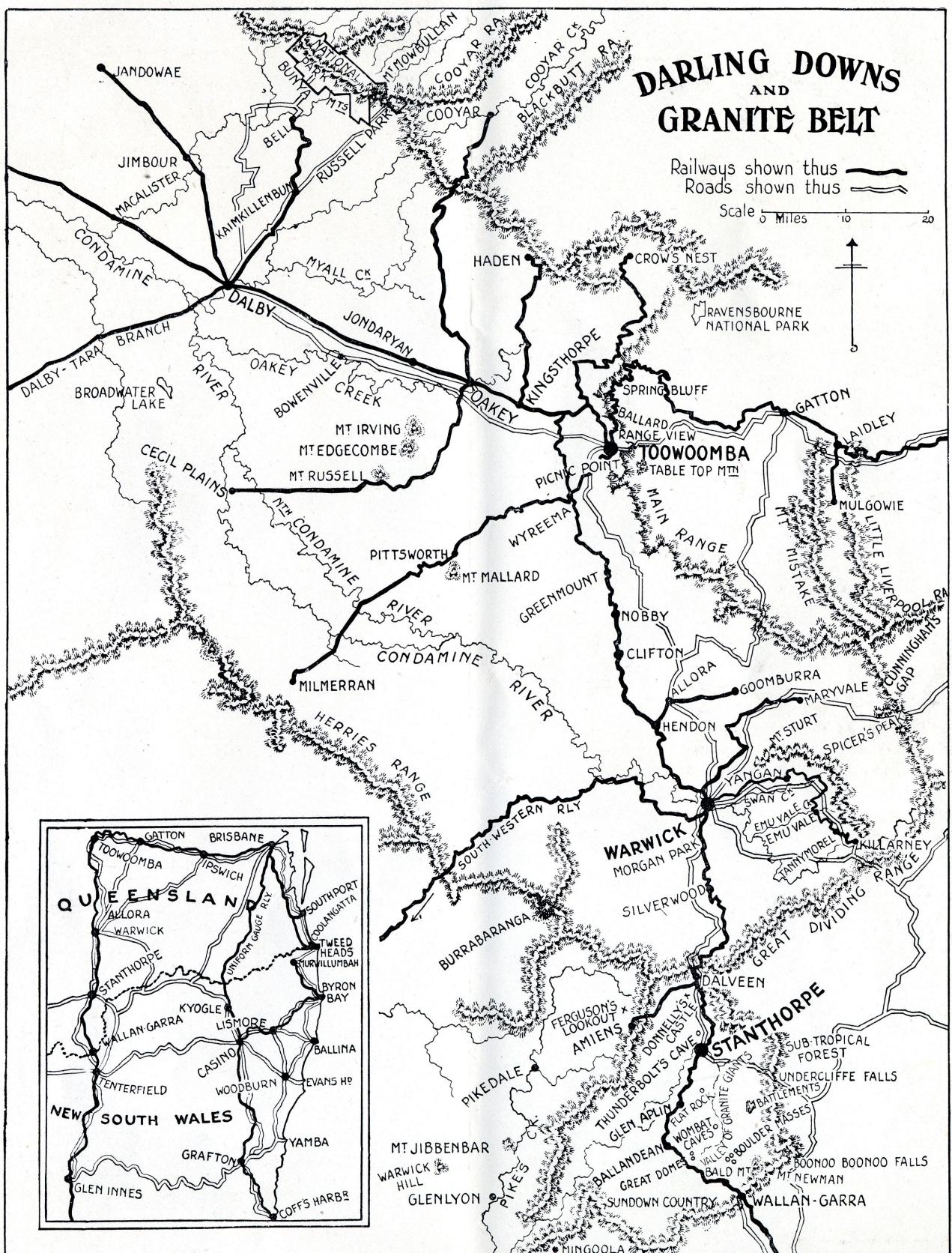
- 4 Black Ben Davis Apple Blossoms
- 5 Grapes for Market
- 6 Picking "Black Diamond" Plums.



DARLING DOWNS AND GRANITE BELT

Railways shown thus —
Roads shown thus —

Scale 0 Miles 10 20



Darling Downs and Granite Belt



Darling Downs and Granite Belt

